

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0025] While one configuration has been disclosed herein, it is contemplated that the thickness and density or firmness of each of the first intermediate fiber batt 250, the second intermediate fiber batt 260, the outer fiber batt 270 and the foam inner core 240 can be of any design suitable for the desired characteristics of the seat cushion 160. Factors to consider in designing suitable thicknesses and densities include, without limitation, softness or plushness, the desired level of support for the back, seat and body, and the overall thickness desired for the seat cushion 160. The firmer first intermediate fiber batt 250, the second intermediate fiber batt 260 and the foam inner core ~~H{249}~~ 240 are resiliently compressible to a lesser degree than the softer outer fiber batts to provide support for a given load, for example, to someone sitting on the resilient structure, and also provide ease in raising oneself up from a seated position. In addition, the firmer first intermediate fiber batt 250, the second intermediate fiber batt 260 and the foam inner core 240 provide stability to the resilient structure. The first and second intermediate fiber batts 250 and 260 also provide stability to the foam inner core 240 by forestalling its disintegration, thus imparting further durability to the foam inner core 240 and to the set cushion 160 as a whole. The softer outer fiber batt 270 is resiliently compressible, cushiony, and imparts a soft plush feel to the touch. As a result, the seat cushion 160 is characterized by a soft plush feel to the touch and a firmer interior support.

[0029] Referring next to FIG. 3A, a cross-sectional view of a second embodiment of a seat cushion 300 constructed, in accordance to the teachings of the present invention, to have plural zones, each having a discrete compressibility characteristic, will now be described in greater detail. As may now be seen, the seat cushion 300 includes an upper side surface 310, a lower side surface

320, a front side surface 330 and a back side surface 340. Typically, the upper side surface 310 is used as a seating area, the lower side surface ~~320~~ 320 is placed against an upper side surface of the base support portion 120, the back side surface 340 is placed against an exterior side surface of the back support portion 130 and the front side surface 330 remains visible. Upholstery or other suitable fabric or decorative material (not shown) covers the entire seat cushion 300 to provide a decorative touch. In use, for example, when a person sits on the upper side surface 310 of the seat cushion 300, a forward portion of the seat cushion 300 (denoted in FIG. 3A as portion “A”) supports the knee area of the user, an intermediate portion of the seat cushion 300 (denoted in FIG. 3A as portion “B”) supports the bulk of the weight of the user and a back portion of the seat cushion 300 (denoted in FIG. 3A as portion “C”) supports the posterior of the user.

[0032] The foam inner core 350 (with fiber subcore 360 therein) is wrapped by the outer layer 370 in the same manner previously described with respect to FIG. 2. The outer layer 370 is formed from a fiber batt having a thickness of about 2 inches thick and a weight of about 2 ounces per square foot of the 2 inch thick fiber batt. Thus, that portion, generally designated in FIGs. 3A-B as portion 370-1, of the outer fiber batt 370 positioned above the foam inner core 350 is about 2 inches thick while that portion, generally designated in FIGs. 3A-B as portion 370-2, of the outer layer ~~370~~ 370 positioned below the foam inner core 350 is also about 2 inches thick.

[0033] Referring next to FIG. 4, a cross-sectional view of a third embodiment of a seat cushion ~~400~~ 400 constructed, in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, to have plural

zones, each having a discrete compressibility characteristic, will now be described in greater detail. As may now be seen, the seat cushion 400 includes an upper side surface 410, a lower side surface 420, a front side surface 430 and a back side surface 440. Typically, the upper side surface 410 is used as a seating area, the lower side surface 420 is placed against an upper side surface of the base support portion 120, the back side surface 440 is placed against an exterior side surface of the back support portion 130 and the front side surface 430 remains visible. Upholstery or other suitable fabric or decorative material (not shown) covers the entire seat cushion 400 to provide a decorative touch. In use, for example, when a person sits on the upper side surface 410 of the seat cushion 400, a forward portion of the seat cushion 400 (denoted in FIG. 4 as portion "A") supports the knee area of the user, an intermediate portion of the seat cushion 400 (denoted in FIG. 4 as portion "B") supports the bulk of the weight of the user and a back portion of the seat cushion 400 (denoted in FIG. 4 as portion "C") supports the posterior of the user.

[0036] The foam inner core 450 (with fiber subcore 460 therein) is wrapped by the outer layer 470 in the same manner previously described with respect to FIG. 2. The outer layer 470 is formed from a fiber batt having a thickness of about 2 inches thick and a weight of about 2 ounces per square foot of the 2 inch thick fiber batt. Thus, that portion, generally designated in ~~FIG. 3A-B~~ FIG. 4 as portion 470-1, of the outer fiber batt 470 positioned above the foam inner core 450 is about 2 inches thick while that portion, generally designated in FIG. 4 as portion 470-2, of the outer layer 470 positioned below the foam inner core 450 is also about 2 inches thick.

[0038] Continuing to refer to FIG. 5, the seat cushion 500 is comprised of an inner core 550, an intermediate layer 560 and a surrounding outer layer 570. In the embodiment disclosed herein, the

inner core ~~450~~ 550 is formed of a foam material, has a total thickness of about five inches and a relative firmness of 1.8. The intermediate layer 560 is formed of a fiber batt having a thickness of about 1 inch and a density of about 2 ounces per square foot of the 1 inch thick fiber batt. As may be seen in FIG. 5, the intermediate fiber batt 560 is wrapped around a portion of the foam inner core 550. More specifically, the intermediate fiber batt covers a forward portion 550b-1 of a lower side surface 550b, a front side surface 550c and a forward portion 550a-1 of an upper side surface 550a of the foam inner core 550. By configuring the seat cushion 500 in this manner, the forward portion A of the foam inner core 550 which, as previously set forth, provides support to the knee area of a user sitting on the upper side surface 510 of the seat cushion 500 is covered by the intermediate fiber batt 560.